

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A memory card comprising:

a flash memory;

an external interface unit operable to transfer data to and from a host apparatus;

a storage unit that prestores a predetermined writable block size; and

a controlling unit operable, when receiving through the external interface unit a write command which specifies a write block size, to (a) judge whether the write block size satisfies a predetermined condition in relation to the writable block size and (b) perform a control operation concerning whether to permit writing of data into the flash memory according to a result of the judgment.

~~The memory card of Claim 1,~~

wherein the writable block size is a predetermined integral multiple of a size of an erase block in the flash memory,

wherein the predetermined condition is that the write block size is an integral multiple of the writable block size, and

wherein the controlling unit performs the control operation to write data into the flash memory only if the predetermined condition is satisfied.

3. (Currently Amended) The memory card of the Claim 2, further comprising:

a transmission unit operable to read the writable block size from the storage unit and

transmit the read writable block size to the host apparatus through the external interface unit.

4. (Original) The memory card of the Claim 3, wherein

the storage unit further prestores a guaranteed write rate that indicates a lowest recording rate guaranteed as long as data is written into the flash memory in units of the writable block size, and

the transmission unit further reads the guaranteed write rate from the storage unit and transmits the read guaranteed write rate to the host apparatus through the external interface unit.

5. (Original) The memory card of Claim 4, wherein

the storage unit prestores a conditional guaranteed write rate that indicates a lowest recording rate guaranteed as long as data is written into the flash memory in units of a certain integral multiple of the writable block size, and

the transmission unit further reads the conditional guaranteed write rate from the storage unit and transmits the read conditional guaranteed write rate to the host apparatus through the external interface unit.

6. (Original) The memory card of Claim 4, wherein

the storage unit further prestores a buffer memory capacity data that is predetermined to indicate a capacity required for a buffer memory that is equipped in the host apparatus, to guarantee the lowest recording rate indicated by the guaranteed write rate, and

the transmission unit further reads the buffer memory capacity data from the storage unit

and transmits the read buffer memory capacity data to the host apparatus through the external interface unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The memory card of Claim 4, further comprising:

an update unit operable, responding to a request from the host apparatus that is received through the external interface unit, to rewrite the writable block size prestored in the storage unit so that the writable block size becomes smaller than the original writable block size, and then update the guaranteed write rate according to the rewritten writable block size.

8. (Currently Amended) The memory card of Claim 3, further comprising:

a writable block size update unit operable, responding to a request from the host apparatus that is received through the external interface unit, to rewrite the writable block size prestored in the storage unit so that the writable block size becomes smaller than the original writable block size.

9. (Currently Amended) A memory card system comprising:

a memory card comprising:

a flash memory;

an external interface unit operable to transfer data to and from a host apparatus;

a storage unit that prestores a predetermined writable block size; and

a controlling unit operable, when receiving through the external interface unit a write command which specifies a write block size, to (a) judge whether the write block size satisfies a predetermined condition in relation to the writable block size and (b) perform a control operation concerning whether to permit writing of data into the flash memory according to a result of the judgment; and

~~the memory card of Claim 1; and~~

a host apparatus that transfers data to and from the memory card,

wherein the host apparatus includes a read-modify-write unit operable, when a size of a first data to be written into the memory card does not reach the writable block size, to (a) read a second data from a flash memory that is included in the memory card through the external interface unit, and (b) put the first data and the second data together to generate a third data so that the third data has the same size as the writable block size, and then (c) transmit a write command to the memory card to write the third data into the flash memory.